

## The News-Scimitar

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DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

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## LOG ISLAND HOGS

The public recently has been treated to a spectacular controversy between Senator Vardaman and Rear-Admiral Bowles over the manner in which money was spent in the construction of the Hog Island shipyards.

Senator Vardaman, with his usual directness of speech, declared that the construction of the Hog Island yards was one of the most infamous transactions that mar the pages of history, and that he agreed with Senator King, who had declared "there was a great deal of vulgar robbery, stealing and leechery by men engaged in the Hog Island enterprise."

Admiral Bowles' retort to this charge was a telegram to Senator Fletcher, chairman of the senate committee on commerce, in which he said:

"You and your committee will appreciate that this statement that the contract for the construction of the Hog Island shipyards and building of ships is an infamous transaction, reflects upon all parties to it, and therefore particularly upon Admiral Capps and myself. Senator Vardaman has every opportunity to know the truth, and he knows that his statement is a deliberate lie. At a time when every effort is being made by myself and the administration of the shipyard to organize to the best advantage a large force of men for the construction of vessels, such statements are detrimental to the interests of the United States, and a gross injustice to every man connected with this enterprise."

The foregoing statement from Admiral Bowles was inserted, as the lawyers say, to keep the record straight. Senator Vardaman has denounced the enterprise as crooked and Admiral Bowles has defended it as straight. Senator Fletcher seemed to be under the impression that it was his duty, being a good Democrat, to take sides with the admiral. It is not out of place to state that if senators were more prone to go into the facts, instead of defending the profiteers, a good deal of the scandal that we have already heard something about, and a lot of that to come, would never have happened.

On Friday the president instructed that the report of the Hog Island affair, made by the department of justice, might be made public. It is of more interest to the public than the controversy between Senator Vardaman and Admiral Bowles.

In the first place the report reveals that the original estimate of the cost was \$21,000,000. The yard has actually cost \$3,000,000, and only one ship has been delivered, and it was very unsatisfactory, and a lot of additional work was required to make it seaworthy, although the ship itself cost in the neighborhood of \$1,100,000.

The entire report is revolting in its narration of a financial orgy. Millions of the people's money has been spent in excessive salaries and in a waste of material. Fifty ships now in the ways will cost approximately \$500,000 each more to build than the building cost in other yards.

The concern in charge of the work operated on the nefarious percentage basis. The more they spent the more they made. The concern stood to make \$14,440,000 by fulfilling its contract within a given time.

In conclusion the report says: "We are not able to find affirmatively that the agent has satisfactorily accounted in the hearings before us for the expenditure of so large a sum of money in the construction of this plant," and then adds that "the main question being the reasonableness of the expenditures, a board of experts would be a more suitable tribunal, we think, than a court and jury."

The report suggests a recovery of the stolen money, but it seems to be the idea that the matter should be transacted as between gentlemen. Perhaps the grafters will agree to return half the stolen money if no fuss is made over it, or to drop the subject entirely. Meanwhile Senator Vardaman seems to have disturbed the poise of those who are entirely satisfied with the situation, especially Admiral Bowles, who seems to think too much has already been said about it.

## CENSORSHIP AWRY

The censorship is off, we are told, but off and on it is. Spellbinders returning from abroad are accustomed to exclaim: "Now that my lips are unsealed, etc." and then proceed to relate some supposedly hitherto unheard of story. But letters from abroad are still being opened, scrutinized and censored. It is a somewhat incongruous situation that permits a man to say publicly anything that occurs to him, and be forbidden to write an ordinary business letter without having it delayed and held up by the censor.

A letter that has just reached us from London, containing a circular offering to sell an article for publication, was duly stamped by the censor with one of those formidable placards pasted over it as in wartime, giving an insignificant and inconsequential matter the appearance of importance. If the censor hadn't troubled himself so much with it it probably we should not have troubled with it at all. It looks like a needless bother, now that the bride is off and speakers may say what they wish and correspondents may cable whatever occurs to them.

In the New York World of Dec. 17 there occurs a number of interviews with returning soldiers, from which we take the following extract:

"Ask the Y. M. C. A. where it gets off with all this publicity stuff it has printed in the newspapers on this side," called a soldier, to the accompaniment of groans. "It charges enough for stuff; it ought to declare dividends soon. Put in a line about the English Y. M. C. A." More groans. "Give the Red Cross a boost," someone interjected. Words of approval sounded.

"We didn't see the Salvation Army or the K. of C. where we were," someone said, "but here they are all right, and don't make a profit on a chap in a hospital or anywhere else, because they give away their stuff."

So there you are—some dissatisfied and some satisfied. The boys will tell the whole story as it impressed them when they came back, censorship or no censorship, and whatever is of interest will find its way into print.

Rabbi Joseph Bogen was in failing health for several years preceding his death, but his absence from the scenes of activity did not serve to obliterate the memory of his genial nature and wise counsel. He numbered his friends by the hundreds, and they were won to him without reference to creed or cult. He was a ripe scholar, with splendid judgment, and craved nothing more than an opportunity to serve. The fruits of his work are imperishable.

## That Guiltiest Feeling—By Briggs

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A COUPLE OF WOMEN  
PLAYERS LET YOU GO THROUGH  
AT THE TEE "BECAUSE YOU  
PLAY SO MUCH BETTER THAN  
WE DO"—AND THEN YOU GO  
TO MAKE A WHOLE OF A DRIVE  
JUST TO PROVE THEY ARE  
RIGHT—AND YOU NEVER  
TOUCH THE BALL—A TALL!



## FRANK H. SIMONDS' WAR ARTICLE

Liquidating Mitteleuropa—The New Map

By FRANK H. SIMONDS, Author of "THE GREAT WAR," "THEY SHALL NOT PASS."

In several articles since the German

surrender I have discussed the forthcoming peace congress, with special reference to the more general questions to be considered and settled, and the dangers which will have to be surmounted in dealing with principles. In the present article I shall try to describe certain developments which have followed closely upon the termination of the fighting and have in some respects lessened and in others increased the practical problems which will face the Versailles gathering. These problems are of a more technical nature than those which I have already discussed, but they are of no less importance.

The Bulgarian defeat served as the first sign of the crumbling of the world edifice built by German arms. It was the first step toward the liquidation of the German empire, and it was the first step toward the liquidation of the German empire.

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Under added 42,000 square miles and

6,000,000 people to the Temevar of 1914. As it now stands, the new Greater Rumania has an area of nearly 100,000 square miles and a population of 13,000,000. Rumania thus becomes a nation with an area equal to that of the mainland of Italy and holding a population greater than that of Italy a century ago.

Nor is the work quite complete. In various parts of the new Rumania, the population is largely Rumanian, and Rumanian patriots hope to obtain at least 10,000,000 Slav-Poles, Czechs, and Slovaks, and a large number of other nationalities.

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not infrequently the dominating partner,

in the dual monarchy, they will become something more than one of the minor states of Southern Europe, weaker than either the Serbs or the Rumanians, whom they have coerced for centuries. Not less serious will be their economic situation, for they will have no direct outlet on the sea and the Danube will be in the hands of their hereditary enemy.

Yet no other solution is conceivable. A Hungarian minority has ruled Slavs and Rumanians alike with stupidity and brutality for centuries, failing only to absorb the alien elements, and in the end the Slavs and Rumanians have found their own way. Occupying the rich and fertile lands of the Hungarian empire, they will certainly be a prosperous nation in the future, but their great peril is that they will be a nation of slaves.

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improbable that such a federation may

extend to include Greece and Bulgaria, again for economic rather than political reasons, but any reappearance of the German race only be looked for if these new states follow the evil examples of the past and cultivate not friendship, but rivalry.

Fortunately, there is little temptation, save in the case of Hungary, for the Rumanians and the Serbs are old allies, and their relations with the Czechs and Slovaks can never be the cause of any political jealousies. As for Hungary, her very helplessness should serve to destroy her certain that in the years to come both the Rumanians and the Czechs will wholly distance the Hungarians, while the Magyars will remain dependent upon both for the side of the natural routes to the outside world. Moreover, a revolution in Hungary, driving out the old autocracy, would last giving the mass of the Hungarian people political freedom, would probably contribute mightily to the destruction of the old and wicked tradition which has come so much to weigh upon the Magyar people.

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